

Mr. Alexander J. Wall, Librarian of the New York Historical Society, writes that Jan Evertsen Keteltas came from Lansmeer, in N. Holland and married Aeltje Janse Schepmoes of New York, on 7 July, 1669, in the Dutch Church of New York. He died in the middle of the 1680's. His descendent, Henry Keteltas was living in 1895, when the gift was made to Dr. Coleman, at 37 St. Marks Place.

Now if one turns to p. 186 of vol. i of *Early Science in Oxford* (1923) by R. T. Gunther, since 1924 the Curator of the Lewis Evans Collection of Scientific Instruments at the Old Ashmolean, Oxford, he will find that B. Cole in 1751 succeeded Thomas Wright and continued his business in Fleet Street, London. So in all probability the microscope which has been given to the Academy is of later date than that. My friend, Dr. Gunther, in answer to my query, writes: "I am chary about reporting about instruments I have not seen . . . but I am confident that 1649 is an impossible date for your instrument . . . I describe your instrument as a 'Culpeper Model Tripod Microscope' . . . Your Mr. Keteltas date cannot be trusted for *this* instrument, but it is possible that Jan Evertson K. brought *another* from Holland in 1649, which was replaced by this one *more* than one hundred years later."

This, the oldest microscope we have, is a very welcome addition for the museum.

ARCHIBALD MALLOCH

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## ACADEMY LIBRARY ACTIVITIES OF BENEFIT TO THE MEDICAL LIBRARY WORLD IN GENERAL

The Library of The New York Academy of Medicine carries on a large amount of work outside its regular activities, benefiting medical libraries all over the world, at considerable cost to itself. The results of such labors in 1929 amount to a rather surprising total, when reduced to dollars and cents. A brief survey of this work may per-

haps be of interest, especially to those Fellows of the Academy through whose donations to the Library much of this has been made possible.

The Academy received from various Fellows in 1929, 10,509 books and 52,193 journals. Of these the Library kept for its primary sets about 1863 books and 3925 journals, valued at approximately \$4700, and for its duplicate sets, about 14,480 journals, worth \$3620, making a total of material valued at \$8320 added to the Academy collection. Of the remainder, we first distributed to 89 libraries in this country and Canada through the Medical Library Association Exchange 376 books and 7867 journals. After Exchange requests had been filled we gave directly to seven libraries who are not members of the Exchange, two of them in China, 1705 books and 5104 journals, worth about \$4686. This makes a total given away valued at \$7404. Fellows of the Academy have therefore contributed to medical libraries in one year, books and journals to the value of \$15,724. The handling of all this has, of course, cost the Academy a good deal. As nearly as can be estimated, the collection of these donations, their acknowledgment, checking and distribution, cost about \$2860 in 1929. The proportion spent for books not kept by the Academy was \$1513. This has not been met by any special appropriation, but has been done in the time of the regular library staff.

Another activity in which the Academy Library has taken part is in contributing to the compilation of the *Union List of Serials*. This contains the periodical holdings of 225 libraries in the United States and Canada, up to 1925, about 75,000 entries. The total cost was about \$70,000. The Academy subscribed \$1800 towards this and in addition paid \$2850 as the cost of listing its holdings. In 1930 an annual supplement was inaugurated, to be issued in quarterly installments, the Academy's work for which comes to about \$500 yearly. The Academy's share in supporting this project has thus far, then, amounted to \$5150. The value of the work to the general library

world cannot be estimated in money. It is a reference book of immense bibliographical and practical value, giving the titles, extent and location of all journals in the libraries of North America. If we do not have a journal, the *Union List* indicates what library does have it and exactly what volumes it has. It tells us what forms a complete set of any journal, so that we do not buy incomplete ones—and there are scores of other uses to which it is put daily. It is of especial importance to medical libraries, since more than half their literature is in periodical form.

The Academy Library conducts an extensive inter-library loan circulation. During the first nine months of 1930 we lent 460 books to 50 different libraries scattered over the United States and Canada, at a cost of \$262.80. (This does not include transportation charges, which are paid by the borrowing library). For the entire year, the cost would be, at this rate, about \$350.00. Moreover, the Library acts as a bureau of information for individuals and libraries all over the country, answering anywhere from one to a dozen inquiries a day, on topics that range from the number of operations required for admission to the American College of Surgeons to the color of Pasteur's hair. Most queries are sober enough, however, and entail no small amount of research and careful attention to bibliographical details. All this requires daily a couple of hours time for one assistant, and not seldom that of the librarian himself.

Altogether then, the Academy Library spends annually for the benefit of other libraries a total of \$2363. In addition to this expenditure, it gives away to them books and journals valued at about \$7400—and at the same time makes our entire collection and the reference facilities of our staff available to any doctor in the country. We serve not only New York City, but the entire medical world.

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